

NY Jams
3 May 66

UKRAINE TYPIFIES PROPAGANDA WAR

Soviet Minority Is Target of East-West Contest

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

KIEV, U.S.S.R., May 24—An Estonian émigré in the United States is identified as an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency. Another Estonian is named in gossip deliberately spread as an agent of the Soviet State Security agency.

A Ukrainian defector from the West is displayed here at a news conference to recite details of Western intelligence operations among émigré societies.

From the Baltic states to the Soviet republics in the Caucasus, regional Communist leaders speak out about "bourgeois infiltration" into the Soviet Union through the devices of minority-group nationalism. The minority nationalities of the Soviet Union are a central battlefield in the intelligence war between East and West; manipulation of nationality groups appears to be a major weapon of both Communist and Western intelligence organizations.

As a matter of politics, the fervor of émigré nationalists, which was strong during and shortly after World War II, seems to have died. But for the planning of agents in the Soviet Union and of Soviet agents in the West, the minority nationalities apparently retain their usefulness.

National Identity Strong

Two conditions make possible fruitful exploitation by both sides: One is the strong national identity that non-Russian minority groups preserve in their home republics. The other is the presence of émigrés abroad.

The number of Ukrainians overseas, for example, was put at three million by a Ukrainian writer, Yurik Smolich. Some are adherents of what he called "progressive" émigré organizations, friendly to the Soviet Union; others join in activities of anti-Soviet nationalist groups, he said.

A series of incidents in the Ukraine has provided glimpses of the undercover contest between rival émigré societies backed by their presumed mentors, the propagandists and intelligence organizations in Mos-

A 37-year-old Ukrainian writer, Ivan Svetlichny, was arrested in Kiev this spring and, according to sources here, confessed to assisting West Ukrainian nationalist groups and arranging for the publication of anti-Soviet literature in European émigré journals. One of his literary colleagues said he had been released with a warning against continuing his anti-Soviet activities.

Dzyuba Not Arrested

A more prominent writer, Ivan Dzyuba, was interrogated by the security police at the same time, according to this source, but was not arrested.

The most specific disclosures of alleged Western intelligence activities among émigré groups came in an extraordinary news conference last month. A man named Stepan I. Dzhigalo was introduced as a Ukrainian who fought against the Soviet Union during World War II and continued to serve with an anti-Soviet nationalist organization in West Germany until he became disillusioned with its ties to Western intelligence agencies.

Soviet Sources Reticent

It is openly discussed in the West how émigré groups work to maintain contact with their countrymen under Soviet rule.

Last April the C.I.A. publicly identified an Estonian, Juri Raus, as an employee during a slander action brought against Mr. Raus by Eerik Heine, an Estonian émigré living in Canada. Mr. Heine charged that Mr. Raus had depicted him as a Soviet agent to Estonian émigré groups.

That Soviet authorities shun such disclosures though the maintaining of "cultural" ties with "progressive" émigrés abroad is acknowledged.

Contacts with Ukrainians overseas are made from a ground-floor office in a yellow-brick apartment building near the bluffs of the Dnieper River in Kiev. This is the office of the Society for Cultural Relations with Ukrainians abroad.

Its executive secretary, Mikhail A. Levishchenko, spoke at length about the wish for non-political cultural relations among all Ukrainians. On the specific activities of his society he was vague.

He said he did not know the circulation of the organization's newsletter and declined to say how big the staff of the society was.

"We know nothing about any intelligence operations among Ukrainians," he said. "There are other organizations that occupy themselves with such

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2008